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CITY MOVE-OUT PROGRAM SAVES CLOTHES, FURNITURE FROM THE LANDFILL

August 24 through September 1, apartment managers, city Recycling Program staff, local non-profits and volunteers teamed up again to actively promote waste reduction through reuse and recycling. The Apartment Move-Out Waste Reduction Program, now in its 10th year, collects unwanted clothing, furniture, house wares and home décor from residents at apartment properties during the annual turnover.



This year's Apartment Move-Out Program involved 35 apartment properties and seven local non-profit groups.

“This year’s program was a great success,” said Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis and move-out program organizer. “We had a record number of 35 apartment properties that participated in the program, compared to only 19 properties last year.”

Donation stations were set up at participating apartment properties. As residents packed up to move-out, they took all their unwanted items to the donation stations. Local non-profit groups were encouraged to help themselves and the remaining material at the donation stations was salvaged for reuse by other apartment residents.

The combination of local charities and residents gathering the items in the donation

stations was very successful. “The goal here was to prevent good, useable material from being discarded in the trash and that goal was definitely reached,” says Gilbert. “It’s sad to see so much good material thrown in the trash when it can easily be reused.”

“It’s always hard to calculate the amount of material that we diverted from the trash,” says Gilbert, “because it’s attempting to put a number on stuff that’s not there.” Most of the furniture and house wares brought to the donation station are quickly picked up and taken by other residents and non-profit groups that work with the City on this program.

The only quantifiable item diverted in the move-out program is clothing, which was collected from the donation stations and taken to the SPCA Thrift Store. This year, the Move-Out Program collected over 160 large bags of clothing for donation. This is a significant increase over last year’s number of 100 bags of clothing.

In testimony to the effectiveness of the program, the large 35 and 40 yard dumpsters at the apartment properties were not as full this year as in years past. Some apartments that usually empty large 35 yard dumpsters several times during turnover never filled their dumpsters even once.

The City of Davis Public Works Department Recycling Program would like to thank all the managers and staff of the apartment properties that participated in the Apartment Move-Out Program this year: Adobe at Evergreen, Alhambra, Allegre, Alvarado Parkside, Alvarado Sunset, Anderson Place, The Arbors, Arlington Farms, Aspen Village, Chaparral, College Square, Cranbrook, DaVinci Court, Eastlake, Glacier Point, Greystone, J Street, La Salle, Lakeshore, Pepperwood, Pinecrest, Portage Bay, Renaissance Park, Saratoga West, Seville at Mace Ranch, Silverstone, Sterling Pointe, Sundance, Temescal, The Trees, University Commons, University Court, University Village, Wake Forest and The Willows Apartments. “By participating in this program the managers and staff at these properties have demonstrated forward thinking, community responsibility and concern for the environment,” said Gilbert.

The City Recycling Program also extends a thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the move-out program, including the Davis Rotaract Club, members of the UC Davis R4 Recycling Program, and other community volunteers.

Nonprofits that received donations from this program include the Food Bank of Yolo County, Yolo Hospice, Davis Community Church, Yolo Community Care Continuum, the Christian Mission Wayfarer Center, Yolo Family Resource Center and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

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